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East Texas Colloquy

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EAST TEXAS COLLOQUY

Those who attended the Fall meeting of the Association gathered at Nacogdoches on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University on Friday, September 28. The evening session featured a screening of the 1915-vintage film directed by D.W. Griffith entitled, "Martyrs of the Alamo." Following the film, a panel composed of Dan Kilgore (author of *How Did Davy Die?*) of Corpus Christi, Larry Hill of Texas A&M University, and Lee Lawrence of Tyler discussed aspects of the Alamo story. A reception at the home of Dr. and Mrs. William R. Johnson followed.

Saturday morning the first session dealt with "Social History of the Great Depression." Donald W. Whisenhunt of the University of Texas at Tyler read a paper on "East Texas and the Stock Market Crash," and Bobby Johnson of SFASU offered "Recollections of the Great Depression, an Experiment in Oral History." The session was chaired by Mrs. Lucille Fain of Nacogdoches.

Following the mid-morning coffee break, a second session entitled "Social History of the Camp Meeting" was presented. Francis E. Abernethy presided, and Melvin R. Mason of Sam Houston State University presented "Come Hungry, Come Thirsty: The Religious Camp Meeting, an American Institution."

The Association's luncheon saw President Ralph W. Steen preside over a full program. First, the C.K. Chamberlain Award for the best article to appear in Volume XVII was presented to Dr. James M. McReynolds for his article on nineteenth century Jasper County towns. Judge Joe Fisher of Beaumont presented the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Award for Historic Preservation to Dr. Steen for the Association's "distinguished service in the field of historic preservation through the publication of the *East Texas Historical Journal*." It was also announced that the Association would receive the American Association for State and Local History's Certificate of Commendation for its cooperative work between lay and professional historians. Dr. Robert S. Maxwell introduced the luncheon speaker, Mr. Bob Bowman, who spoke on "Social History of East Texas Sawmill Towns."

In the annual election of officers, Dr. Frank Smyrl, dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Texas at Tyler, was elected president of the Association for 1979-1980. Mrs. Marion Holt of Beaumont was elected first vice-president, and Mr. Max S. Lale of Marshall was elected

second vice-president. Dr. William R. Johnson of Nacogdoches and Mr. Lee Lawrence of Tyler were re-elected to the Board of Directors and Mr. Bob Bowman of Lufkin was also elected to the Board. Dr. Ralph W. Steen was designated *Director Emeritus*. At the Board of Directors meeting held on Friday, September 28, Ms. Patricia Kell of Baytown, Bill O'Neal of Carthage, James Smallwood of Stillwater, Oklahoma, and James Wilkins of Tyler were added to the Editorial Board. In other action the Board also agreed to sponsor an application to the Texas Committee for the Humanities for a grant to produce newspaper articles and hold public discussions on Eastern Texas History.

Our readers may be interested in two services for which we recently received advertisements. Both offer to research genealogical materials. Ostby's Americana (8758 Park Ave., Box 89, Bellflower, California 90706) specializes in the research of military records, especially of the Civil War period. Genealogical Indexing Services (Box 522, Dublin, Ohio 43017) announced the TURPIN INDEX, a marriage record of Ohio, for sale at \$15.

WESTART (Box 5512, Austin, Texas 78763) announced the availability of artist Bruce Marshall's print entitled, "Landing Party," for \$35 plus \$2.50 for handling. Number of prints are limited to 500, and each is hand signed and numbered by the artist.

The San Jacinto Museum of History Association announced the retirement of the Museum's Director, Dorothy W. Knepper, in July. Knepper had served the Museum since 1944. The Association also announced that J.C. Martin, formerly of the University of Texas at Arlington, will succeed Mrs. Knepper as Director.

The Texas Library and Historical Commission's name was changed on August 27, 1979 to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The enabling legislation, which was passed by the Sixty-Sixth Legislature, changes only the name, not the function, of the agency. Robert E. Davis of Waco continues as chairman of the commission, with members C. Stanley Banks of San Antonio, Mrs. Walter S. Moore of Austin, Chilton O'Brien of Beaumont, Lucian L. Morrison of San Antonio and Jon Ben Shepperd of Odessa.

Professor Robert E. May (Department of History, Perdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907) who is researching a biography of John A. Quitman of Mississippi, is trying to track down Quitman materials believed to be in Texas. May would appreciate hearing from anyone who might know the whereabouts of any Quitman materials.

Bob O'Connor, Program Development Coordinator for the Texas Committee for the Humanities (Box 19096, Arlington, Texas 76019), invites inquiries and applications for grant support from the Committee. Write Bob for details.

The history of agriculture in the Southwest will be discussed at an important symposium on May 13-15, 1980 at Texas A&M. Members of the East Texas Historical Association are cordially invited to attend sessions on agricultural politics, cooperatives and modern marketing, farming and ranching, the agricultural extension service, farmer movements and feed grain and livestock. Prominent speakers about Texas and southwestern agricultural history include Gilbert C. Fite, Leonard J. Arrington, John Hutchison, Archie P. McDonald, Donald Green, George Woolfolk and others. For further details, write your hosts: Dr. Irvin May, Research Historian, Texas A&M University, Sterling C. Evans Library, College Station, Texas or Dr. Henry C. Dethloff, Department of History, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843.

Professor Bennett H. Wall, Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern Historical Association, has accepted a position as Lecturer in American History at the University of Georgia effective July 1, 1980. At that time the business and executive offices of the Southern Historical Association will move from Tulane University, where they have been located fifteen years, to the University of Georgia. Professor Wall will continue to serve as Secretary-Treasurer there. The editorial offices of the *Journal of Southern History* will remain at Rice University. After July 1, 1980 all correspondence about SHA business affairs, subscriptions, etc. should be sent to the following address:

Dr. Bennett H. Wall, Secretary-Treasurer
Southern Historical Association
The University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30601

The Spring meeting of the East Texas Historical Association will be held in Tyler on February 22-23. Dr. Patricia Gajda, University of Texas at Tyler, is program chairman.